

REMARKS

These Remarks are in reply to the Office action mailed December 7, 2004. Claims 17 and 19 are amended, claim 18 has been canceled and no claims have been added, such that claims 1-17 and 19-21 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 13 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,594,102 to Kanda et al. (hereinafter "Kanda").

Claim 1 as filed requires "a retraction data table that is arranged to store values for the retraction voltage and the retraction time interval corresponding to the zone associated with the location of the transducer." Kanda discloses a data table 225 which stores values for retraction voltage and time interval (see col. 17, lines 19-41) as suggested on page 2 of the Office action. However, the values in Kanda's data table 225 correspond to calculated distances between a head location and ramp (see col. 17, lines 33-37), not to a zone associated with transducer location as required by claim 1. This is important because precise transducer location is not available to the drive in the event of a power interruption as explained in the present specification at page 9, lines 24-26. Because Kanda does not disclose a table in which retraction voltages and time intervals correspond to a zone associated with transducer location as required by claim 1, a case of anticipation has not been made out. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Similarly, claim 13 requires a step of "retrieving updated values for the retraction voltage and retraction time interval from the retraction data table based on the zone location of the transducer when power to the disc drive is interrupted." As set forth above with respect to the rejection of claim 1, Kanda's table 225 includes values corresponding to transducer-to-ramp distance and not the zone of transducer location

as required by the clear language of claim 13. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 and allowance thereof are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 17 has been amended by incorporating the limitations of originally filed claim 18, which has been canceled. Claim 17 now requires "retraction means for retrieving values of retraction voltage and retraction time interval based on the zone location of the transducer." As explained above with respect to the rejections of claim 1 and 13, Kanda discloses retrieving voltage and time interval values based on transducer-to-ramp distance and not the zone of transducer location as required by the clear language of claim 17 as amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 and allowance thereof are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 19 depends from claim 17 and is allowable for at least this reason.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over the Kanda in view of U.S. Patent 6,721,119 to Hassan et al. (hereinafter "Hassan").

Claims 6 and 7 depend from allowable claim 1 and are themselves allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 14 depends from allowable claim 13 and is itself allowable for at least this reason.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 8-12 are allowed.

The Examiner is also thanked for the indication that claims 15, 16, 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Because it is believed that independent claims 13 and 17 are currently in allowable form, the amendment proposed by the Examiner have not been made.

Conclusion

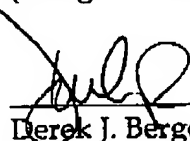
Applicant respectfully asserts that present claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. In addition, the present invention as claimed is not taught by the prior art of record or any combination thereof. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable action with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is not satisfied, but minor changes would apparently put the present case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Seagate Technology LLC
(Assignee of the Entire Interest)

March 4, 2005
Date


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